



MINUTES
The Greater Kansas City
Disabled Federal Employee Council
Wednesday, September 1, 2004
09:00 to 11:00 A.M.

Location: GSA Federal Complex
1500 East Bannister Road
Kansas City, MO
Heartland Room

Attendees: Kendall Crosby, Jim Jordan, Daryl Sprague, Cindy Hillman, Bobbie Mowery, Dan Perkins, Janet Hutsell, Donald Ashworth, Michelle Cain, Sultan Farakhan, Jean A. Holiwell, Mary Triay

1. Opening Reminders:
 - A. Welcome
 - B. Sign-in sheet was distributed
 - C. Minutes of the August meeting:

Minutes for August's meeting were e-mailed to council members following that meeting. There was an opportunity to ask questions, make comments, etc. before a vote was taken to accept them as complete and accurate.

Discussion: No discussion

Motion made to accept the Minutes as recorded by: Jim Jordan

Seconded by: Sultan Farakhan

Unanimous approval by all members present at this meeting.

2. Old Business:
 - A. Report on Website redevelopment

Daryl Sprague highlighted the decisions that were made by the council members at the August meeting. The goal is to move into service the sample Website that was demonstrated in that meeting. It was decided that we would add the names of our council members with their agency names under contacts. Daryl thanked Mary Triay for her work updating the DFEC Website. Mary reported that after Unity Day activities are completed the Website would become a priority.

Daryl Sprague reported that he had distributed the new Membership Roster via e-mail in order to get an up-to-date list of members for the Website. There have been a few updates received since it went out. Anyone that failed to provide information is encouraged to do so. The

updated version will be e-mailed to everyone again.

B. UNITY DAY – DISPLAY TABLE

This year Unity Day is scheduled for September 21 at the Overland Park Convention Center. The fee is \$50.00. Janet Hutsell and Greg Salyer are our volunteers to lead and organize the display table. Volunteers will meet at the convention center September 20 at 1:00 PM through 3:00 PM to help prepare for the event. Jean Holiwell, Sultan Farakhan and Donald Ashworth volunteered to help do preparation work on September 20. They will be assembling handouts for the event, and helping prepare the DFEC table.

Mary Triay will be sending out instructions to the volunteers that signed up to help on the 20 & 21 via e-mail.

We discussed the types of information that is needed on our display table. Cindy Hillman clarified that the focus of this years Unity Day was to showcase the Special Emphasis Councils, not other organizations. The membership decided to use two notebooks on our table with our Bylaws, Membership Roster, Minutes from past meetings, etc. to educate people about DFEC.

Jean Holiwell suggested we use our logo on all our documentation in the notebooks, handouts, etc. Also use it as a letterhead on future documentation, etc.

Kendall handed out examples of documents he prepared for use on our table. This included the “DFEC Tri-fold” which highlights DFEC and our purpose, and a flyer “National Disability Employment Awareness Month – October 2004. We also decided to use our “Planning Meetings for People With Disabilities” guide on the table.

Cindy Hillman explained that council banners would be used in the main meeting room so they will not be available as part of our table display.

Bobbie Mowery suggested we create a forecast sheet showing actual dates, times, locations, etc. of DFEC meetings for the upcoming year. This would be a useful handout for people that are interested in our meetings.

Jim Jordan will be preparing Braille copies of the agenda and handouts for Unity Day.

Cindy Hillman will be checking with IRS inquiring about using their staff Sign Language Interpreters for the event. This will help anyone in attendance and demonstrate for our participants the importance of having

this resource at a meeting.

C. OCTOBER DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH (OCT. 21)

DFEC will participate in the GSA Disability Month awareness program. This program is at the GSA Plaza Auditorium, October 21, from 09:00 to 11:00 AM.

Our group began brainstorming to come up with ideas for the 30-minute time slot DFEC has been allotted on that program. Kendall lead into this discussion by reporting on the field trip our officers (Kendall Crosby, Jim Jordan and Daryl Sprague) had taken August 25. He explained that they visited the National Weather Service Executive Leadership Seminar to hear John Wright give his speech about the Human Spirit. Kendall told about the impact one of John's stories had made on him. The story was about Rudolf The Disabled Reindeer.

The story about Rudolf, John Wright tells, is modified to help his audiences think about the importance of opportunity. It is also used to help people realize that what some people see as a problem, other people see as a resource. Finally, John emphasizes that the person many people see as different, has to maintain a good attitude, and they have to keep on trying. When they do that it is very often their good attitude that opens a door to that opportunity to succeed. In the end Rudolf is a good example of those principles. Remember he actually became the leader. Oh yes, remember, his name did go down in history!

That story made an impact at our meeting and we continued planning our presentation. It was decided to use the Rudolf The Red Nosed Reindeer music at our presentation because it does impact people and they will remember it.

Bobby Mowery told about how often times the healthy people in a group place limitations on People With Disabilities that the person with the disability doesn't even think about. She emphasized that personal stories are tools that help everyone understand what other people can do.

Kendall mentioned that often times he thinks we (DFEC) are preaching to the choir. We need to get other people to attend our functions and provide training to help them learn and understand the "Abilities" people have.

Our discussion continued and we focused on the fact that there are both "seen" and "unseen" disabilities. Both need to be a part of our training focus.

Dan Perkins volunteered to tell his experiences about loosing his sight and how he has overcome that hurdle in life. He will do that in a positive

manner. Daryl Sprague mentioned he is always available to tell his story as a cancer survivor, again in a positive manner. Mary Triay said she has a niece that may be willing to tell her story about overcoming the obstacles of an automobile accident.

Bobbie Mowery asked us to try and find different role models that would represent all of the Special Emphasis groups. This would help everyone relate to our message and learn from the experiences being shared.

We also had several people mention that they personally know people that are good resources for this type of information.

We will finalize plans at our October DFEC meeting.

- D. DFEC is Co-Host for the Quarterly Council Meeting
November 18, 2004 at GSA Plaza Auditorium 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM
Plans are underway for that meeting with Native American Federal Employees Council.

3. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Meeting locations are being planned for the next year. Our goal is to have a Kansas City, Kansas Federal Agency host every other month to help people that are interested in being a part of DFEC attend our meetings.

4. COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bobbie Mowery announced that this was her last meeting with DFEC. She will be transferring out of Kansas City as she mentioned at a prior meeting.

Kendall presented Bobbie a framed certificate from KCFEB DFEC recognizing her dedication and support as our Liaison to KCFEB. Bobbie will be missed, but she has influenced us all to do our best and educate people about disability issues. All of us who have worked with Bobbie have learned a lot from her – Thank You!

Finally, Bobbie Mowery instilled a long-range goal in our minds. She reminded us, “The people who are the most uncomfortable around People With Disabilities are not the people with a disability, but rather the ones without a disability.” She went on to emphasize that DFEC will be successful anytime we help people learn how to communicate and build working relationships with each other.

This council meeting was adjourned.